

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action has been reviewed.

The Examiner's objection to the drawings is noted. In response thereto, applicant submits a proposed drawing change for the Examiner's approval.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-9 "under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite." In response thereto, applicant has amended the claims.

The Examiner has then rejected Claims 2 and 3 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleckis et al (4,426,007)", Claim 4 "as being unpatentable over Beleckis et al in view of Manico et al (5,791,692)", Claims 8 and 9 "as being unpatentable over Beleckis et al in view of Ruebens (6,253,475)". These rejections are traversed.

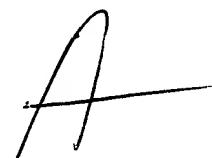
The Examiner then cites Howard v. Detroit Stove Works, 150 U.S. 164 (1893), to reject Claim 8 because "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the cover sheet in one piece with a fold line". The Examiner further states that "it would have been obvious to place the passageways/slots at any desirable location" and cited In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70. The Examiner's conclusions as to what would have been obvious are not well taken.

Serial No.:09/770,424      Applicant: TAN      Amendment Dated:      8/9/02

More specifically, although the various pieces of prior art show various aspects of the present invention, no reference teaches or suggests alone or in combination with the others the particular arrangement of page sets consisting of at least one interior support sheet in association with an exterior cover sheet being folded around the outer edge of the interior support for generating pockets for the receipt of photographs and the like.

It would appear that the Examiner has merely gleaned miscellaneous features in the prior art and has attempted to combine them without a teaching for their combination. The only teaching is in applicant's disclosure which, by definition, is not prior art. But even if there were a teaching for the combination, the resulting structure would still fail to anticipate applicant's invention for the reasons set forth herein above.

It is deemed that the amendments herein overcome all grounds of objection and rejection. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

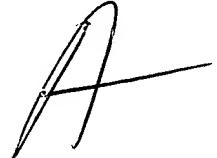
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. (Amended) A photograph album system for removably receiving and supporting photographs and [like] image-bearing documents for maximized convenience and aesthetic appearance comprising, in combination:
  - 5            a spine including a pair of parallel side walls each with a top end and bottom end and an interior edge and exterior edge, the spine also including two panels, a top panel and a bottom panel each with an interior and exterior face, the top panel and bottom panel each being in parallel relationship with each other and coupled at the top of the walls and at the bottom of the walls for the receipt of pages there between, the two walls and two panels being in a rectilinear configuration with an open planar face from which pages may extend and a closed arcuate face opposite therefrom, the top panel having a fixed retainer portion with a front face flush side walls[ and with the a plurality of recesses on the interior face thereof], the side walls each having an internal lateral groove at the bottom end thereof adjacent to the bottom panel, and the side walls each have an aperture there through at an intermediate location along a mid line of the side walls thereof;



22            a plurality of cylindrical long posts having opposite  
23 ends adapted to be received in the recesses the retainer  
24 portion of the top panel of the spine adapted for the  
25 receipt of the pages there around;

26            a removable retainer having an exterior face and  
27 plurality of internal retaining fingers, the removable  
28 retainer adapted to slidably couple in the groove of the  
29 spine and hold the cylindrical posts in an equally spaced  
30 configuration;

31            a short spine pin passing through the side wall  
32 apertures to retain the posts in position within the spine;  
33 and

34            a plurality of pages all being made from flexible paper  
35 products with the plurality of pages all being defined by a  
36 plurality of signatures, the signatures being defined by a  
37 plurality of page sets, each page set consisting of an  
38 interior support sheet of a rectangular configuration having  
39 a central vertical fold defining an inner bend and a pair of  
40 outer edges, each page set further having a pair of exterior  
41 cover sheets each having a central vertical fold positioned  
42 around an individual outer edge of the interior support  
43 sheet with each fold defining an outer bend and a pair of  
44 inner edges lying in proximity to the inner bend of the  
45 interior support sheet, the inner bend being adapted to hold



46 a cylindrical long post, the exterior covers being adhered  
47 to the interior support sheet by glue on three sides such  
48 that two pages are formed with separate pockets on each side  
49 of each page with each pocket opening toward the inner edge  
50 of the exterior cover sheet and the inner bend of the  
51 interior support sheet, the interior support sheet initially  
52 having a generally rectangular configuration having a top  
53 and bottom edge and a pair of side edges and a central axis  
54 with a pair of recesses at the top and bottom edge thereof,  
55 the interior support sheet having a series of short  
56 rectangular apertures along the central axis to facilitate  
57 bending and a pair of circular apertures located equally  
58 spaced from the central axis along a mid line of the  
59 interior support sheet, the exterior cover sheets initially  
60 being of a rectangular configuration and having a plurality  
61 of rectangular apertures 80 aligned along the central axis  
62 which serve to frame the photograph and like image-bearing  
63 document.

1            2.      (Amended) A photograph album system comprising:  
2            a spine having a fixed retainer at one end thereof and  
3 a removable retainer having a plurality of internal  
4 retaining fingers at the other end with a plurality of  
5 cylindrical posts received in the spine;



6            a plurality of pages defined by a plurality of  
7 signatures, each signature being defined by a plurality of  
8 page sets, each page set consisting of at least one interior  
9 support sheet with an outer edge and an associated exterior  
10 cover sheet being folded around the outer edge of the  
11 interior support sheet with each exterior cover sheet having  
12 a central fold defining an outer bend; and  
13            posts coupling the pages to the spine.

1            3. The invention as set forth in Claim 2 wherein all  
2 of the pages are made from flexible paper products.

1            4. (Amended) The invention as set forth in Claim 2  
2 wherein the exterior cover [sheets] sheet of each page set  
3 [are] is adhered to the interior support by glue along three  
4 edges.

1            5. (Amended) A photograph album system comprising:  
2            a spine;  
3            a plurality of pages defined by a plurality of  
4 signatures, each signature being defined by a plurality of  
5 page sets, each page set consisting of an interior support  
6 sheet having a central fold and [apart of] exterior cover  
7 sheets each being folded around an individual outer edge of



8    interior support sheet with each having a central fold  
9    defining an outer bend, the exterior cover sheets being  
10   adhered to the interior support sheet such that two pages  
11   are formed with separate pockets on each side of each page;  
12   and  
13        posts coupling the pages to the spine.

1        6.    (Amended)   The invention as set forth in Claim 5  
2   wherein the spine includes a top panel having a fixed  
3   retainer portion with a plurality of recesses [on the  
4   interior face thereof] and a removable retainer having a  
5   plurality of internal retaining fingers and page supporting  
6   posts between the recesses and fingers.

1        7.    (Amended)   The invention as set forth in Claim 5  
2   wherein the spine includes side walls with an aperture there  
3   through at an intermediate location along a midline thereof,  
4   the plurality of page sets having a pair of circular  
5   apertures [locates] located equally spaced from [the] a  
6   central axis along a midline of [the] an interior support  
7   and a short spine pin to retain the posts in position within  
8   the spine.

1        8. (Amended) The invention as set forth in Claim 2  
2 wherein the cover [sheets] sheet and [supplemental sheets]  
3 support sheet are coupled by glue lines with passageways  
4 adjacent to [the] center folds of the cover sheet for the  
5 passage of photographs[ into and out of the pockets].

1        9. (Amended) The invention as set forth in Claim 2  
2 wherein the cover sheets and support sheets are coupled by  
3 glue lines and with slots in the cover sheets [adjacent to  
4 the pockets] for the passage of photographs [into and out of  
5 the pockets].

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Please amend the first full paragraph of Page 11 of the specification, beginning on line 4 and ending at line 26 as follows:

4            An alternate embodiment of the invention is shown in  
5        [Figure] Figure 4A wherein the cover sheets 64A are cut  
6        with openings 80A to receive six photographs per page  
7        set, three one each face of each page, on opposite sides  
8        of the fold line [80A] 80B. Figures 4B, 4C and 4D  
9        illustrate alternate constructions of the cover sheets  
10      64B, 64C and 64D. In the Figure 4B embodiment, the cover  
11     sheet 64B has six openings [70B] 80E on each side of the  
12     fold line 66B. Four horizontal glue lines 70B are above  
13     and below each opening. Insertion and removal of  
14     photographs is facilitated by vertical slots [70B] 84B  
15     between the laterally spaced openings of each face of  
16     each page. The Figure 4C embodiment is cut to form three  
17     landscape oriented openings 80C on each side of the  
18     centerline 66C with glue lines 70C above and below, and  
19     with two portrait oriented openings laterally spaced  
20     therefrom. A horizontal slot 84C is located between the  
21     portrait oriented openings on each side for picture  
22     insertion and/or removal. The embodiment of Figure 4D  
23     features openings 80D of various sizes and orientations  
24     on each side of the fold line 66D. Glue lines [870D] 70D  
25     are vertically positioned on opposite sides of the  
26     openings with slots 84D adjacent to each opening 80D for  
27     picture insertion and/or removal.